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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/527,928 | 03/16/2005 | Werner Huber | BEET-10 | 8591 |

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| EXAMINER |
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TANG, MINH NHUT

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2829

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/527,928 | Applicant(s) HUBER, WERNER | |
| | Examiner Minh N. Tang | Art Unit 2829 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20, 22, 23 and 27-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 21, 24-26 and 31-34 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the reference to claim numbers as amended on page 2 of the Amendments to the Specification (i.e., those claim numbers should be deleted).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 18-34 are objected to because of the following informalities:

a/ in claim 18, lines 3-4, since "the other side" refers to "another side" recited previously in line 1, therefore "another side" (line 1) should be -- other side --. Furthermore, it is not clear what is meant by "one side and another side" because the location and relationship between one side and another side is not defined. Additionally, "x- and y- direction" (line 9) should be -- x-direction and y- direction --.

b/ in claim 20, line 3, a comma (,) should be placed between "other" and "the mounting plate".

c/ in claim 21, lines 5-6, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the term "said apertured plates" (plural), therefore "one of said apertured plates" should be -- the at least one apertured plate --. Furthermore, since the word(s) in the parentheses is not given patent weight, therefore "base(s)" (line 6) and "plunger(s)" (line 7) are treated as singular terms. Additionally, as stated in the previously Office action, "can be" (line 6) should be -- is --. Finally, it is not clear "an apertured plate" (line 8) is the same as or

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different from "at least one apertured plate" recited previously or "an apertured plate" is an exchangeable plate.

d/ in claim 24, line 4, since "the locking device" refers to "the at least one locking means" recited previously, therefore "the locking device" should be -- the at least one locking means --.

e/ in claim 26, line 3, the limitation "the single plates to slide in opposite directions" is unclear because it is not clear which plate slides in opposite direction and how to define the opposite direction. Furthermore, it is not understood what is meant by "it".

f/ in claim 31, it is not clear "the contact board" (line 4) the same as or different from "a contact board support" (line 2) or "a device under test board" (claim 30, lines 3-4) recited previously. Furthermore, it is not clear which device/element "can be inserted in a reversible" (line 4). Additionally, "can be" (line 4) should be -- is --.

g/ in claim 32, line 2, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the device under test board support".

h/ in claim 34, line 2, "can be" should be -- are --.

i/ claims 19, 22, 23, 25, 27-30 and 33 are objected since they directly or indirectly depend on objected base claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

In light of the uncertain language found in the claims, no art has been applied to claims 21, 24-26 and 31-34. Therefore, the claims are not necessarily allowable over prior art until applicants clarify the meaning of the claim's limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 18-20, 22-23 and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ramesh et al. (U.S.P. 6,586,925).

As to claim 18, Ramesh et al. disclose, in Figs. 1, a mounting plate (12, 10) having one side (i.e., lower side of plate 12) and other side (i.e., upper side of plate 10) and comprising one or more parts (not shown) for indirectly or directly attaching a tester (test head 4, Fig. 1d) for electronic components (integrated circuit devices) on the one side (lower side of plate 12) and a handler (device handler 1, Fig. 1d) for electronic components (integrated circuit devices) on the other side (upper side), characterized in that the mounting plate (12, 10) comprises at least a single plate (12) on the side of the tester (4) to which the tester (4) is attachable and movable therewith and a single plate (10) on the side of the handler (1) to which the handler (1) is attachable, said single plates (12, 10) extending in a plane defined by an x-direction and a y-direction and being slidable against each other in the x and/or y and/or in a z direction extending out of the plane defined by x- direction and y- direction so as to provide movement of the

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tester (4) relative to the handler (1), and the single plates (12, 10) being lockable amongst each other.

As to claim 19, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, one or more rollers (14, 17) or sliding bearings (26), ball bearing bushes (15), guide rollers (24), linear bearings (30, 32), linear guides radial bearings (47, Fig. 2a), air bearing or hydraulic bearings (34) between the single plates (12, 10) for providing slidability.

As to claim 20, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, for positioning the single plates (12, 10) with respect to each other, the mounting plate (12, 10) comprises at least one apertured plate (20, 21, 23, 25) fixedly or slidably and lockably attached to one (12) of the single plates (12, 10) with which at least one locking means (14) mounted on the other single plate (10) engages reversibly.

As to claim 22, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, the at least one apertured plate (20, 21, 23, 25) is supported adjustably in the x and/or y and or z direction and is lockable in the adjusted position.

As to claim 23, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, the at least one locking means (14) is built as not spring-loaded positioning pin, a snap mechanism, a press-on piece.

As to claim 27, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, the slidability of the single plates (12, 10) against each other is performed manually and/or hydraulically and/or pneumatically and/or mechanically.

As to claim 28, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, on the single plate (12) on the side of the tester (4) one or more docking devices (not shown) is reversibly or

irreversibly mounted for attaching and positioning the tester (4) to the single plate (12) on the side of the tester (4).

As to claim 29, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, the single plate (12) on the side of the tester (4) includes two or more recess, bores with or without threads, structures, adapters, hooks or connecting links (see Fig. 1d) for reversibly attaching docking means (not shown) of the tester (4) having two or more parts or for directly attaching the tester (4).

As to claim 30, Ramesh et al. disclose in Figs. 1, the single plate (12 or 3) on the side of the tester (4) includes a central polygonal recess (see Fig. 1d) for reversibly, indirectly or directly receiving a device under test board acting between the tester (4) and the handler (1).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Bin Mohamed Hassan | 6,897,645 | Docking System And Method For |
| | | Docking In Automated Testing |
| | | Systems. |

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Communication


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh N. Tang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



MINH NHAT TANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

10/16/06